

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary
FY15 NWQI Lake of the Pines**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application
Ranking Tool: FY15 NWQI Lake of the Pines		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	

3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:- Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)

Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Water Quality -- EPA Watersheds: Does the application include core conservation practices that will be implemented within 1/4 mile of a stream or water body that is threatened (i.e., receives significant runoff of excess nitrogen and/or phosphorus), on the EQP 303(d) list or is impaired with a TMDL in place and therefore not on the 303(d) list (or other critical stream or water body authorized by the Regional Conservationist)?	100 Point(s)
2. Geographic Impacts: Are core conservation practices planned on the offered acres? i. Greater than 75% of the offered acres are within the focused watershed AND ii. Greater than 75% of the offered acres have a core conservation practice planned for application.	125 Point(s)
3. Collaborative Efforts: Are core conservation practices planned within an existing State agency or other non-USDA water quality project area addressing the same or similar pollutants?	75 Point(s)

4. Effort to address watershed impairments: Does this program application include the implementation of a system of conservation practices which address the primary watershed impairments?	50 Point(s)
5. High risk soils: Are core conservation practices to be implemented on offered acres with a majority of soil types that are classified hydrologic group D (high runoff) or group A (high infiltration)?	50 Point(s)
6. Planned conservation practices that are included in the contract are within 1/4 mile of a blue line stream (any blue line) on the USGS topographic map within the target watersheds?	50 Point(s)
7. Planned conservation practices that are included in the contract are located at least 1 mile downstream from a reservoir or impoundment greater than 25 acres, at least 5 miles downstream from a municipal or industrial Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) discharge point and at least 6 miles downstream from an urban area? Answer this question only if question 4 is answered as yes.	50 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Conservation Practice selection. Select only one of A, B, or C	
1. A. One or more “avoiding” practices will be installed as part of this contract: Waste Storage Facility 313, Composting Facility 317, Cover Crop (pasture or cropland) 340, Access Control (riparian area) 472, Prescribed Grazing 528, Nutrient Management 590, Tree and Shrub Establishment 612	100 Point(s)
1. B. One or more “controlling” practices will be installed as part of this contract: Animal Mortality Facility 316, Residue and Tillage Management - no till (329), Field Border (planted & managed) 386, Filter Strip (planted & managed) 393, Waste Treatment 629	75 Point(s)
1. C. One or more “trapping” practices will be installed as part of this contract: Critical Area Planting 342, Riparian Herbaceous Cover 390, Riparian Forest Buffer 391	50 Point(s)

Landuse conversion from crop use to perennial vegetation. Select only one of A, B, or C	
2. A. A NRCS approved mix of 3 native perennial grass species and at least 2 forbs including at least one legume will be established according to the appropriate Appendix of the planting standard used to <u>install the seeding</u>	50 Point(s)
2. B. A NRCS approved mix of at least 3 native perennial grass species will be established according to the appropriate Appendix of the planting standard used to <u>install the seeding</u>	25 Point(s)
2. C. A stand of NRCS approved introduced grass species will be established according to the appropriate Appendix of the planting standard used to install the seeding	20 Point(s)

Number:
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